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12 November 1958

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*Pillow Balloon Collect Release***MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD****SUBJECT: Demonstration of Captive Balloon System** [redacted]

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1. On 29 October the undersigned visited [redacted] to conduct a field demonstration of a captive balloon system [redacted]

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The object of the captive balloon work was to deposit a payload at a specified target that is behind a typical border situation.

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2. The system used involved four "pillow" balloons, 500 yards of 300 lb. test nylon line on a reel, mechanical line cutter, radio switch, simulated payload and a weighted "drag" rope. The operation is done as follows: three pillow balloons lift the payload and drag rope, the line to one of these balloons is passed through a mechanical cutter; when it is cut off the two remaining balloons have enough lift to carry the payload but not all of the drag rope. The fourth pillow balloon is tied to the line about 150 yards from the payload. The payload is secured to the reeled line. It is released and rises pulling the line off the reel at a rapid pace. The second balloon is attached when about 150 yards have payed out, after one minute the mechanical cutter cuts off one pillow balloon from the payload. The system, then about 4-500 yards away, descends until the drag rope is on the ground and neutral buoyancy is attained. The fourth pillow balloon that is attached to the line is still high in the air and pulls the whole system along until the target is reached. The radio switch is used to cut off the payload. The system is then light and rises into the air to be reeled back in.

3. The demonstration was conducted jointly by OTR/Air Branch personnel and TSS/ED. It was the understanding that the system was to be employed over a range of "at least" 1000 yards. After the demonstration, which was successfully accomplished, [redacted] stated that the range of minimum interest was one mile. Further discussion of the merits of the system was reserved until a later date.

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